

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

New York Office

Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm>

Fax-On-Demand: (212) 337-2412

Media Contact: (212) 337-2420

Information: (212) 337-2400

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

CONSUMER PRICES IN THE NORTHEAST: AUGUST 2002

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Northeast region rose 0.5 percent in August, Denis M. McSweeney, Regional Commissioner for the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, reported today. The August rise reflected increases for housing and apparel, frequently up at this time of year. Other goods and services, education and communication, and gasoline were also up in August. These gains were partially offset by declines for household furnishings and operations, new vehicles, gas and electricity, and food at home. For year ended August 2002, the CPI-U for the Northeast region rose 2.3 percent, and core inflation, as measured by the all items less food and energy index, was up 3.3 percent.

The housing index rose 0.3 percent in August. Overall, shelter rose 0.6 percent. Owners' equivalent rent increased 0.3 percent and residential rent, 0.4 percent. These increases were partially offset by declines of 0.8 percent for household furnishings and operations, 0.6 percent for natural gas, and 0.4 percent for electricity.

The apparel index rose 4.3 percent in August. Apparel prices are often up at this time of year with the introduction of new fall and winter lines.

Among other index components, the other goods and services index rose 1.9 percent in August. The education and communication index, which includes tuition charges, was up 1.2 percent.

The private transportation index rose 0.3 percent, largely reflecting a 2.7-percent increase in gasoline prices. The index for new vehicles declined 0.7 percent, while the index for used cars and trucks was up by 0.4 percent.

The food at home index edged down 0.2 percent in August, while the food away from home index was up by 0.5 percent. The medical care index was little changed, as a 0.3-percent increase for medical care commodities was largely offset by a 0.3-percent decline for professional services. The recreation index was also essentially unchanged over the month.



Round-the-clock recorded messages

Annual Average National and New York-
Northern New Jersey CPI'S (212) 337-2408
Latest Producer Price Indexes (212) 337-2409
National Employment and Unemployment (212) 337-2410

Latest CPI Data

New York-Northern New Jersey (212) 337-2404
United States (212) 337-2405
National and New York-Northern New Jersey (212) 337-2406
Northeast, Other Regions and Major Areas (212) 337-2407

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), by region

Expenditure category	(not seasonally adjusted)									
	August 2001 – August 2002					July 2002 – August 2002				
	US	North-east	Mid-west	South	West	US	North-east	Mid-west	South	West
All items	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.3	1.9	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3
Food and beverages	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.2	1.6	0.0	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.0
Housing	2.1	2.9	1.9	1.2	2.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.4
Apparel	-1.7	-0.1	-3.2	-1.7	-2.1	1.5	4.3	1.9	-0.5	1.3
Transportation	0.4	-0.3	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1
Medical care	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.4	5.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.6
Recreation	1.1	0.6	2.1	0.4	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.8	-0.2	-0.3
Education and communication	2.9	3.4	3.6	2.5	2.4	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.4
Other goods and services	4.4	8.6	4.9	3.1	2.1	0.5	1.9	0.1	0.2	0.0

The Northeast increase of 2.3 percent between August 2001 and August 2002 compared with a national rise of 1.8 percent. Among other regions, increases were 1.3 percent in the South, 1.6 percent in the Midwest and 1.9 percent in the West.

The Northeast Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) also rose 0.5 percent in August. The CPI-W rose 2.2 percent over the year.

Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month to month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences. Regions are defined as the four Census regions, comprised as follows: Northeast - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Midwest - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. South -Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. West - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods
Northeast (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	June 2002	July 2002	Aug. 2002	Aug. 2001	June 2002	July 2002
<u>Expenditure category</u>						
All items	187.8	188.3	189.3	2.3	0.8	0.5
All items (December 1977=100)	295.7	296.5	298.1	-	-	-
Food and beverages	178.2	178.4	178.6	1.3	.2	.1
Food	177.4	177.6	177.9	1.2	.3	.2
Food at home	176.6	176.8	176.5	.3	-.1	-.2
Food away from home	181.0	181.3	182.2	2.3	.7	.5
Alcoholic beverages	187.1	187.9	187.9	3.1	.4	.0
Housing	194.6	195.6	196.2	2.9	.8	.3
Shelter	233.9	235.2	236.6	5.2	1.2	.6
Rent of primary residence 1/.....	215.4	216.1	216.9	4.6	.7	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence 1/ 2/	242.8	244.1	244.9	5.6	.9	.3
Fuels and utilities	134.2	133.9	133.6	-7.2	-.4	-.2
Fuels	123.6	123.2	122.8	-8.6	-.6	-.3
Gas (piped) and electricity 1/.....	138.1	137.9	137.2	-8.6	-.7	-.5
Electricity 1/.....	137.8	137.4	136.8	-5.6	-.7	-.4
Utility natural gas service 1/.....	139.5	139.5	138.7	-13.8	-.6	-.6
Household furnishings and operations	130.4	130.3	129.2	-1.8	-.9	-.8
Apparel	120.0	116.5	121.5	-.1	1.3	4.3
Transportation	153.4	153.5	153.8	-.3	.3	.2
Private transportation	147.8	147.9	148.4	-.1	.4	.3
New and used motor vehicles 3/.....	98.3	98.2	97.9	-1.6	-.4	-.3
New vehicles	138.5	137.9	136.9	-1.9	-1.2	-.7
New cars and trucks 3/ 4/.....	96.4	96.0	95.3	-1.9	-1.1	-.7
New cars 4/.....	137.0	136.1	135.2	-1.8	-1.3	-.7
Used cars and trucks	155.5	156.0	156.6	-3.4	.7	.4
Motor fuel	116.1	115.9	119.0	-2.2	2.5	2.7
Gasoline (all types)	115.5	115.3	118.4	-2.2	2.5	2.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular 4/.....	115.1	115.0	118.2	-1.9	2.7	2.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade 4/ 5/.....	118.9	118.5	121.8	-2.1	2.4	2.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium 4/.....	114.4	114.1	116.9	-2.9	2.2	2.5
Medical care	303.5	305.1	305.3	4.6	.6	.1
Medical care commodities	270.1	271.0	271.8	2.6	.6	.3
Medical care services	310.9	312.7	312.7	5.1	.6	.0
Professional services 1/.....	268.1	268.5	267.7	1.8	-.1	-.3
Recreation 3/.....	107.6	107.4	107.5	0.6	-0.1	0.1
Education and communication 3/.....	106.8	108.0	109.3	3.4	2.3	1.2
Other goods and services	305.7	310.9	316.8	8.6	3.6	1.9
<u>Commodity and service group</u>						
All items	187.8	188.3	189.3	2.3	.8	.5
Commodities	150.4	150.1	151.2	.1	.5	.7
Commodities less food and beverages	132.7	132.2	133.8	-.9	.8	1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	142.2	141.5	144.9	1.3	1.9	2.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	162.1	163.1	165.8	2.2	2.3	1.7
Durables	119.7	119.4	118.7	-3.3	-.8	-.6
Services	224.6	225.8	226.8	3.7	1.0	.4
Rent of shelter 2/	244.5	245.8	247.3	5.3	1.1	.6
Transportation services	201.6	202.3	202.2	2.5	.3	.0
Other services	259.0	260.7	262.5	3.6	1.4	.7
<u>Special aggregate indexes</u>						
All items less medical care	182.4	182.8	183.9	2.2	.8	.6
All items less food	189.9	190.4	191.6	2.5	.9	.6
All items less shelter	172.3	172.5	173.4	.8	.6	.5
Commodities less food	134.9	134.5	135.9	-.7	.7	1.0
Nondurables	160.5	160.3	162.1	1.2	1.0	1.1
Nondurables less food	144.8	144.2	147.5	1.4	1.9	2.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	163.4	164.5	166.8	2.2	2.1	1.4
Services less rent of shelter 2/	221.9	223.3	223.8	1.9	.9	.2
Services less medical care services	217.9	219.1	220.1	3.6	1.0	.5
Energy	120.8	120.5	121.5	-5.7	.6	.8
All items less energy	197.0	197.5	198.5	3.0	.8	.5
All items less food and energy	202.0	202.6	203.8	3.3	.9	.6
Commodities less food and energy commodities	144.0	143.5	144.8	.0	.6	.9
Energy commodities	115.1	114.7	117.3	-2.6	1.9	2.3
Services less energy services	233.2	234.4	235.5	4.5	1.0	.5

1/ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

2/ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

3/ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

4/ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

5/ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Note: For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, the all items index on a 1982-84 base was 185.7 in August, up 0.5 percent over the month, and up 2.2 percent over the year.